



Leading the way

A&M researchers are exploring biofuels. **Brazos Business, A4-5**

Texas country

Roger Creager returns to BV roots for Ziegfest. **Spotlight**



Fitting in

Texas A&M's Jamie McCoy may have found a home at tight end. **Sports, B1**



WEATHER

High 96, Low 74

25% chance of storms

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Bryan-College Station, Texas ★ theeagle.com

THURSDAY
August 28, 2008

50 cents

IN BRIEF



Football preview

The Eagle sports staff takes a look at the upcoming Texas A&M and Big 12 football season in a 12-page special section.

— **College Football 2008, D1**

Enter lawman for musical blogger

Kevin Cogill, 27, is accused of posting nine previously unreleased songs by the rock band Guns N' Roses on a Web site where they could be accessed by the public.

Cogill was arrested Wednesday, on suspicion of violating federal copyright laws, according to Los Angeles authorities.



Centennial celebrations

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson's family, admirers gathered Wednesday at a Hill Country site to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The occasion also marked the opening of his ranch office, near Stonewall, to the public. The office has been restored to look as it did in the 1960s and has original recliners, a horse saddle, an old-style TV and Johnson's eyeglasses.

— **Region, A9**

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"our daddy's turning 40 today."

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Nomination makes history

Obama is 1st black picked

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND** and **CALVIN WOODWARD**
Associated Press

DENVER — When this campaign ends, after future presidents have come and gone, and when today's young people are grown old, history will remember Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, as the day a black man became the presidential nominee of a major party.

This is history with the ink still wet; transcendent, yet in your face now.

It's a history that belongs to the red states and the blue states and the United States, to borrow the phrase that made people first sit up and listen to Barack Obama only four years ago.

Americans who don't like him, who will never vote for him, own it, too.

The roll call of states Wednesday night at the Democratic convention means Denver joins Springfield, Ill., and Washington, D.C. in an arc that spans centuries which



AP photo

A button bears images of both the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama.

saw slavery, emancipation, lynchings, Jim Crow, lunch counter bigotry, voting rights, integration, oratory, intermarriage, black pride, assassination, riots, marches

See **PICK**, Page **A6**

Obama celebrates

Dem nomination's his

By **DAVID ESPO**
Associated Press

DENVER — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's

gone pretty well so far. What do you think?" said the Democrats' man of the hour in a jubilant late-night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joseph Biden basked in the cheers.

Former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked delegates to the party convention to make their verdict

See **OBAMA**, Page **A6**

What great heights

Fannin Elementary third-grader Leonardo Gomez reaches for a peg on the climbing wall in the school's playground as Principal Ronny Werner and students look on Wednesday afternoon at the Bryan school. The wall was installed two years ago, when the entire playground got new additions that were purchased with private donations and funds from the city of Bryan Block Grant.

Eagle photo
Dave McDermand



Officials prepare for storm evacuees

By **CASSIE SMITH**
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It's too soon to know whether tropical storm Gustav will force evacuees to seek shelter in Brazos County, but emergency officials are preparing just in case.

"The decision hasn't even been made who's opening shelters yet," said Chuck Frazier, Brazos County emergency management coordinator. So far, he said, it doesn't look like the area is in for a repeat of 2005, when evacuees from hurricanes Rita and Katrina flooded the county.

Forecasters aren't certain where the storm is headed, Frazier said, so it's important for anyone who could be in the storm's path to be prepared. The upcoming holiday weekend, he said, poses particular danger because many people won't be watching the forecasts closely.

Forecasters expect Gustav to grow into a Category 3 hurricane and make landfall Monday or Tuesday on the Texas or

IN SHORT

• At least 23 people have been killed in the Caribbean by Hurricane Gustav.

• The hurricane formed Monday and came ashore Tuesday near Haiti.

• While a Category 1 hurricane, it struck the Haitian city of Jacmel, where it flooded many of the city's Victorian wooden buildings.

• It weakened to a tropical storm and appeared headed for the Gulf; however, it's likely to grow stronger as it crosses warm open water.

— **Wire reports**

See **GUSTAV**, Page **A7**

Freshmen, grad students help boost A&M enrollment

By **HOLLY HUFFMAN**
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Following plans to steadily increase enrollment, Texas A&M University once again boosted its population, with nearly 48,000 students enrolled in classes on the first day of the fall semester.

The record enrollment — 47,925 students, according to preliminary data — is the result of a two-year, planned expansion designed to

increase the public's access to higher education, according to Alice Reinartz, assistant provost for enrollment at A&M. The figure also is likely to help maintain — if not boost — Texas A&M's status as the sixth-largest university in the nation.

The university also is boasting this year of its largest freshman class — 8,127 students, according to preliminary data — which officials said is one of the

largest in the nation.

Though figures won't be final until the 20th class day, the overall enrollment for fall 2008 has grown by 1,383 students when compared with fall 2007. Reinartz said the planned expansion was focused in particular on growth among both freshmen and graduate students. Preliminary data shows 8,967 graduate students

ATA GLANCE

- 47,925 total students enrolled for fall 2008 — a 1,383-student increase when compared to fall 2007
- 8,967 graduate students, a 272-student increase from last year
- 8,127 freshmen, including 1,322 Hispanic students and 305 black students. Of the freshmen, 585 were enrolled through a cooperative program with Blinn College.
- Ethnic breakdown
- 5,848 Hispanic students, which is 566 more than last year
- 1,553 black students, which is 140 more than last year
- *preliminary first-day registration numbers

See **ENROLL**, Page **A7**